UNIVERSAL MIS – EBT INTERFACE

Version 1.6

November 23, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents i

Document Information v

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Smart Card and Online Environments 1

1.2 Guiding Philosophy 2

1.3 Purpose of this document 3

2 Interface Functions 5

2.1 Database of Record and Interface Points 5

2.2 Rationale for Functional Area Assignments 8

2.2.1 Account Maintenance 8

2.2.2 Benefit Maintenance 8

2.2.3 Cardholder/Card Maintenance 9

2.2.4 View EBT Balance / Transaction History 10

2.2.5 Retailer Maintenance 11

2.2.6 Retailer Bank Maintenance 11

2.2.7 Category/Subcategory Maintenance 13

2.2.8 UPC/PLU Maintenance 14

2.2.9 MAR Calculations and Maintenance 15

2.2.10 Adjustments / Payments via ACH 16

2.2.11 Reconciliation (MIS-EBT Auto-Reconciliation) 17

2.2.12 Redemption Batch File 17

2.2.13 Financial Settlement and Reconciliation 18

2.2.14 LA / Clinic Maintenance 18

2.2.15 Card Inventory Management 19

2.2.16 EBT Security Role Maintenance 19

2.3 Implementation Considerations 20

2.4 Security Conisiderations 23

2.5 Section Organization 23

2.5.1 Description and Operations 23

2.5.2 Parameter Table Layout 24

3 Message Based Access 25

3.1 Account Maintenance 25

3.1.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 26

3.1.2 Create EBA 26

3.1.3 Update EBA 27

3.1.4 Get EBA Details 28
3.1.5 Get Household ID Using Card Number 28
3.2 Benefit Maintenance 29
3.2.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 29
3.2.2 Add / Adjust Benefits 29
3.2.3 Get Benefit Balance 30
3.2.4 Get Transaction History 31
3.3 Cardholder/Card Maintenance 33
3.3.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 34
3.3.2 Add Cardholder/Card 34
3.3.3 Submit PIN 35
3.3.4 Get Cardholders/Cards 36
3.3.5 Get Cardholders/Cards for Household 37
3.3.6 Deactivate Card 37
3.3.7 Replace Card 38
3.3.8 Unlock PIN 39
3.4 Retailer Maintenance 39
3.4.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 39
3.4.2 Create Retailer 40
3.4.3 Update Retailer 41
3.4.4 Deactivate Retailer 42
3.4.5 Reactivate Retailer 43
3.5 Category/Subcategory Maintenance 44
3.5.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 44
3.5.2 Get Category Information 44
3.5.3 Get Subcategory Information 45
3.6 Local Agency Maintenance 45
3.6.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 46
3.6.2 Create Local Agency 46
3.6.3 Update Local Agency 47
3.6.4 Deactivate Local Agency 47
3.6.5 Reactivate Local Agency 48
3.7 Clinic Maintenance 48
3.7.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 48
3.7.2 Create Clinic 49
3.7.3 Update Clinic 49
3.7.4 Deactivate Clinic 50
3.7.5 Reactivate Clinic 50
4 Batch File Interfaces 52

4.1 General File Structure 52
4.1.1 Data Required in All Files 52
4.2 Processing Standards 53
4.3 Daily Interface Reconciliation Batch File 53
4.3.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 54
4.3.2 Required Data 54
4.4 Redemption Batch File 54
4.4.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 55
4.4.2 Required Data 55
4.5 Benefit Month Reconciliation Batch File 56
4.5.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 57
4.5.2 Required Data 57
4.6 Retailer Batch File 57
4.6.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 58
4.6.2 Required Data 58
4.7 Retail Corporation Batch File 59
4.7.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 59
4.7.2 Required Data 59
4.8 Retailer Status File 60
4.8.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 60
4.8.2 Required Data 60
4.9 Category / Subcategory Batch Files 60
4.9.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 60
4.9.2 Required Data 61
4.10 APL and MAR Batch File 61
4.10.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 61
4.10.2 Required Data 61
4.11 ACH Payment Request 62
4.11.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 62
4.11.2 Required Data 63
4.12 Card Change File 63
4.12.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 63
4.12.2 Required Data 64
5 Direct Screen Links 65
5.1 Security 65
5.1.1 Database of Record and Interface Point(s) 65
5.1.2 System Logon 65
5.1.3 User Maintenance for SSO 66

5.1.4 Update User 67
5.1.5 Deactivate User 68
5.1.6 Access the EBT System 68

Appendix A - Composite Data Elements A-1

Appendix B - Data Dictionary B-1

Appendix C - Abbreviated Terms C-1

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Version	Date Effective	Details
0.08	2/3/2009	Initial revision for external review.
1.1	8/5/2009	Internal review of revisions resulting from comments to first round of comments
1.2	8/9/2009	2nd Draft for external review
1.3	10/15/2009	3 rd draft for general review and distribution
1.4	10/20/2009	Updated with FNS comments – NWA release
1.5	10/21/2010	Updated with comments on v1.4. Added more explanation about the purpose and use of the document. Version for review by work group.
1.6	11/23/2010	Updated with comments on v1.5. Version for review by public.

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the functional requirements for the interface between a WIC Management Information System (MIS) and a WIC EBT system (EBT). This document describes:

- The operations supported in the interface.
- The core data elements required by the various operations.
- The processing rules that need to be implemented to support the operation.

This document is not intended to serve as an Application Programmer Interface (API) reference. Rather, this document provides a high level description of operations required in the EBT-MIS API. These requirements are intended to be independent of the underlying technical implementation. The details of those specific technical implementations are beyond the scope of this document and will be made available elsewhere.

Moreover, this document provides a description of the operations that are recommended for use by the MIS and EBT systems. The recommended division of labor between the EBT and the MIS platforms is summarized in the subsequent sections of this document.

1.1 SMART CARD AND ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS

This document is intended to provide a standard for functionality and information transfer that is equally applicable to either a smart card or an online WIC EBT system. Conceptually, the information and functionally that a WIC Information System must provide is the same for either and, in both cases, the data has to be ported to a repository somewhere that supports the EBT functionality. The differences are often one of terminology. In a smart card system, the food benefit database is housed in a computer chip on the participant's EBT card and the retailer (WIC authorized vendor) database and settlement functions are housed on a central server. In an online system, both the food account database and the retailer / settlement database are housed on a remote host processing computer.

Regardless though, for either approach, a certain amount of information must be ported between the MIS and EBT databases in order to make EBT possible. Online solutions rely on external telecommunications links to move information to the central database while smart card systems generally rely on local connections to move information to the smart card reader / writer and on external telecommunications links to populate the retailer / settlement database.

This document has tried only to define the functions that must be supported by the MIS and EBT environments and the data that is required to enable those functions. The method of porting that data between the environments has purposefully been left to the application designer. The expectation is that a builder of a new WIC information system will be able to incorporate all of the defined EBT functionality and data requirements within their design in such a way that it can be integrated equally well with either a smart card or an online solution. Conceptually, such a design could incorporate a specific "EBT Interface" object or module that would be the receiver or sender of all EBT related messages. This would isolate any changes required in the MIS that may result from the decision to make use of a smart card or an online solution and would greatly reduce the costs of any necessary modifications.

1.2 GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

This document is written based on a suggested distribution for application functions between MIS and EBT systems. The following describes the philosophy behind the choices made as to where needed EBT functionality can be implemented, either in the MIS or EBT system.

- Promote portability between EBT and MIS systems
- Minimize the amount of data exchange
- Minimize points of failure
- Minimize potential data synchronization issues
- Let each system deal with data that is "natural" to itself when possible
- Let system that generates and houses most of the data relevant to a specific functional requirement be the system that implements that functionality
- Maintain a seamless user experience

It is recognized that an MIS and an EBT system must work in concert to provide the functionality required to deliver WIC food benefits electronically. In some cases, the responsibility for a given functional component is very clear such as benefit maintenance where the MIS is always responsible for benefit issuance or changes to previously issued benefits. However, for some functions, the choice for where a specific function resides (MIS or EBT) is not entirely clear. An example would be Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR)[1] calculations and maintenance. This is a function that has traditionally been an MIS function in the paper environment, but in the EBT environment, all of the data required to perform those calculations exists in the redemption data of which the EBT system is the database of record. To follow the

[1] Also known as Not to Exceed (NTE) amounts

philosophy stated above, it would make the most sense for MAR calculations to be a function of the EBT system because it minimizes the amount of data exchanged, minimizes points of failures, minimizes potential data synchronization issues and lets the EBT system deal with data that is "natural" to itself. With that said, there are MIS that have the capability to support this function and State Agencies may prefer to have the MIS perform this function in order to maintain more control over the data and because it is an essential part of vendor (referred to in this document as "retailer") management and cost containment. Another potential reason is because the function does not exist in the State Agency's selected EBT system. Either system can implement this functionality and through defined interfaces, expose the functionality to the other side. In Section 2.1: Database of Record and Interface Points, a table has been provided that identifies where functions can be implemented between the MIS, the EBT system or either system.

It must be recognized that an application designer has some discretion in the use of the interface points described in this document. For example, a builder of a new WIC MIS application may decide upfront to incorporate in the MIS certain functionality that may otherwise be included in an EBT system. Consequently, this MIS would implement the interface to the EBT system for only the limited set of functions that the MIS designer determines appropriate to the overall solution. On the other hand, when designing enhancements to a legacy WIC MIS to incorporate EBT, the designer may, for cost efficiency, choose to use functionality that already exists in the EBT system as opposed to rebuilding it in the MIS. In this case, a more comprehensive set of interfaces would be implemented by the MIS.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

It is expected that a WIC agency, when first implementing EBT or when replacing an EBT system, will choose an EBT system based on an analysis of functionality and interfaces offered by the various available solutions that best work within the capabilities of its MIS environment. These interfaces can come in several forms depending on the implementation approach and technology:

Smart Card

- Message Based – MIS to smart card reader
- Message Based – MIS to EBT system (settlement server)
- Batch Files – MIS to EBT system (settlement server)
- Direct Screen Links – MIS to EBT system (settlement server)

Online

- Message Based – MIS to EBT system (host system)
- Batch Files – MIS to EBT system (host system)
- Direct Screen Links – MIS to EBT system (host system)

The intent is to make the choice of the EBT system free from interface constraints and to reduce the need for system modification. Conversely, it is also expected that an EBT-enabled WIC agency that is replacing its MIS will consider the EBT capabilities of any candidate replacement MIS which has been updated to the Universal Interface functions.

The purpose of this document is to define the possible interactions (or functions) between MIS and EBT systems and to standardize and define the requirements associated with these functions. The goals that are anticipated to be obtained through the use of the Universal interface are the following:

- When an agency implements EBT, the process to interface the MIS and EBT system should be as simple as "plug and play." Software modifications or enhancements should be kept to a minimum. It is recognized that this will not occur overnight; getting to this point will evolve over time as systems are updated to use the Universal Interface design.
- When an agency chooses to change its EBT system by, for instance, moving the service to a new vendor or transferring a new system, there should be no change required to the MIS system.
- EBT systems will have complete portability between different agencies. An EBT system built for State "A" should be useable in State "B" with no change, assuming both states have built their MIS using the standard interface model.
- The technology and business process selected for EBT by a State Agency will be transparent to the MIS. The Universal Interface should work equally well in both an offline and an online environment and for an in-house or outsourced solution. It is recognized, of course, that selection of cards and overall operations environment can impact functionality for WIC MIS.
- Significant cost advantages to FNS and State Agencies resulting from the standardization and the build-it-once-for-everyone implementation model.

The expectation for MIS and EBT systems is that all interactions between the MIS and the EBT system conform to the requirements for that particular function as herein defined. Not all of the described functions have to be implemented, but if the State agency chooses to implement them, they must conform to these requirements. Therefore, this document should be used in the process of designing and developing those functional interfaces. Note, however, that the Universal Interface is not intended as a requirement for existing interfaces between MIS and EBT systems, but for new systems or new interfaces being developed between existing systems.

2 INTERFACE FUNCTIONS

This section provides a description of the functions supported by the Universal Interface and options for implementation.

2.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINTS

As referenced in the previous section, one of the dilemmas for WIC EBT has been where should certain functions reside, in the MIS or the EBT system? Is the MIS or the EBT system the database of record for certain data? From which system does a user access the functionality or the data? The initial draft of this document attempted to assign each function to a specific system as the database of record.

The assignment of functions to specific systems seemed logical from a system perspective; however, it became apparent that for various reasons State Agencies may want to maintain more control over a function or data. Feedback on earlier versions of this document indicated that some State Agencies felt that this control could best be accomplished by implementing certain functions in the MIS and/or by having the MIS as the database of record. Even though this was not the original strategy for the Universal Interface, this kind of flexibility can still be supported. This document has been updated to provide more options for where certain functions can reside and to support the necessary messages and files to initiate actions and transmit data from the MIS or from the EBT system.

The following table summarizes recommendations for both the database of record and the interface point for specific WIC EBT functionalities. Note that in some cases more than one system is identified as the database of record indicating that there is a choice.

Functional Area	EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface	Notes
Account Maintenance		X		MIS	EBT system stores account demographic and status information based on account set-up, update, and deactivation is initiated from the MIS.
Benefit Maintenance		X		MIS	
Cardholder/Card Maintenance	X	X		Either	If the database of record is the EBT system, the user interface can be either the MIS or EBT system. If the database of record is the MIS, the user interface is the MIS.
View EBT Balance / Transaction History	X			Either	MIS can be used to access data, but EBT is the database of record.
Category/Subcategory Maintenance			X	NUPC	Used only when the EBT system is responsible for receiving the NUPC download.
UPC/PLU Maintenance			X	NUPC	
MAR Calculations and Maintenance	X	X		Either	If the database of record is the EBT system, the user interface is the EBT system. If the database of record is the MIS, the user interface is the MIS.
Retailer Maintenance		X		MIS	Includes peer group maintenance.
Retailer Bank Maintenance	X			EBT	
Adjustments / Payments via Automated Clearinghouse (ACH)		X		MIS	Provides the ability for an ACH payment to be initiated by the MIS and then processed by the EBT system.
Reconciliation (MIS-EBT Auto-Reconciliation)		X		MIS	EBT will transmit a file of activity to the MIS for reconciliation with MIS daily activity.

Functional Area	**EBT** DB of Record	**MIS** DB of Record	**NUPC** DB of Record	**User Interface**	**Notes**
Redemption Batch File	X			MIS	The EBT system will make a daily activity file available to the MIS. A State Agency may choose not to use the file.
Financial Settlement and Reconciliation	X			EBT	
Card Inventory Management	X	X		Either	*Optional / enhanced functionality* If the database of record is the EBT system, the user interface is the EBT system. If the database of record is the MIS, the user interface is the MIS.
LA / Clinic Maintenance		X		MIS	*Optional / enhanced functionality* May be used in EBT system to enhance query and reporting
EBT Security Role Maintenance	X	X		Both	*For Direct Screen Link Access Only* MIS Master of MIS Users / EBT Master of EBT Users

2.2 RATIONALE FOR FUNCTIONAL AREA ASSIGNMENTS

The following sections provide the rationale for how the primary system was identified as the database or record or as the user interface.

2.2.1 ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
	X		MIS

The MIS maintains the demographic information for each household. For the purposes of certification this data is used and maintained by the MIS. The entry of and subsequent updates to this data are through the MIS; therefore, the MIS is responsible for maintaining and transmitting this data to the EBT system as the database of record and user interface. As part of this functionality, the MIS will also initiate the creation of new EBT accounts or update existing EBT accounts. Note that while the user interface is the MIS, meaning that add and update functionality is supported by the MIS, the data can still be viewed as read-only through the EBT system.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.1: Account Maintenance
Batch Files	N/A
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.2 BENEFIT MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
	X		MIS

Food package assignment by a nutritionist and benefit issuance is a unique function of the MIS as part of the participant certification process. While the functionality to add and update benefits can be part of an EBT system, allowing this to occur would create synchronization and reporting issues on the MIS side. For these reasons, it was determined that the MIS should be the database of record and the user interface. The MIS will transmit benefit data to the EBT system. Based on the data provided by the MIS, the EBT system will associate benefits to the correct EBT account (and in smart card systems, load benefits to a card) and track the disposition of the benefits. Note

that while the user interface is the MIS, meaning that add and update functionality is supported by the MIS, the data can still be viewed as read-only through the EBT system.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.2: Benefit Maintenance
Batch Files	N/A
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.3 CARDHOLDER/CARD MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	**MIS** DB of Record	**NUPC** DB of Record	**User Interface**
X	X		Either

Cardholder and card maintenance is a more complicated area and is one in which it has been determined that the database of record and the user interface can be either system. In traditional EBT systems (SNAP/Cash EBT), the EBT system typically has been the database of record. Reasons for this include that there was no need for eligibility systems to maintain card data since it did not use card information. Additionally, the EBT systems were responsible for maintaining card status ensuring that cards that should be active are active and cards that should not be active are inactive or have been deactivated.

In WIC, however, implementations of this functionality have varied as to which system is the database of record. In some cases the choice to make the MIS the database of record was based on the technology used. For example in offline systems, the bulk of the issuance process is between the card and the MIS. The rationale for maintaining card numbers and card history in the MIS is relatively clear in this case. In other cases, it has been because of State Agency preference. Online WIC EBT hosts typically operate with the EBT system as the database of record, but there are State Agencies that have preferred to keep the MIS as the database of record for cards and have found ways to support this through the transfer of data between the systems. Reasons identified by State agencies for having the MIS as the database of record include maintaining more control over the data, use of the card number in the MIS for participant or household searching and record identification, and potentially the need to have a card number in the MIS to support remote (disconnected site) card issuance. In the case of online EBT, having the MIS as the database of record is not consistent with the concepts of minimizing the amount of data exchange, minimizing synchronization issues, and letting each system deal with the data natural to itself.

It should be noted that choosing the EBT system as the database of record does not mean that a State Agency gives up control of their data as it will always be the State Agency's data and if the EBT system is contracted out there should be stipulations for the provision of that data to the State Agency when needed and at the end of the contract. Additionally, functions such as using the card number for MIS record location can also still be supported when the EBT system is the database of record by using function calls that are identified within this document.

If a State Agency chooses to implement the Card Maintenance function with the MIS as the database of record, it should be aware of how and where updates will be made to card status. In some EBT implementations, an EBT host system may provide customer service support to cardholders including the reporting of lost, stolen, or damaged cards and the status updates would be made by customer service representatives through the EBT system. Ultimately, any updates made through the EBT system will need to be synchronized with the MIS. There are always risks that the MIS data may be out of date if these synchronizations are not made in a timely manner.

In terms of the user interface, regardless of where the data resides from a local user perspective, the MIS would be used to access this data. If the EBT system is the database of record, it could also be used by other parties such as the State Agency, IT staff, or customer service representatives to access and update data. The EBT system would not have access to view data on the MIS if the MIS is the database of record.

This function is represented in the following two sections of this document.

Message Based Access	3.3: Cardholder/Card Maintenance
Batch Files	4.12: Card Change File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.4 VIEW EBT BALANCE / TRANSACTION HISTORY

EBT DB of Record	**MIS** DB of Record	**NUPC** DB of Record	**User Interface**
X			Either

Because the EBT system is responsible for processing transactions and maintaining account balance information, it is the database of record; however, a local clinic user does not necessarily want to toggle from the MIS to the EBT system to view this data since this could require entry of a separate User ID and password. This function allows the MIS the ability to request the data real-time from the EBT system and display the EBT balance and transaction data through the MIS user interface.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.2.3: Get Benefit Balance 3.2.4: Get Transaction History
Batch Files	4.4: Redemption Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.5 RETAILER MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
	X		MIS

Most MIS (or a State Agency's vendor management system) already maintain data for the authorized vendors (referred to as "retailers" in this document) for the State Agency. It would be redundant for this data to be entered and maintained separately by the EBT system. Therefore the MIS is responsible for capturing all retailer data needed by the EBT system and transmitting that data in a real-time message or as part of a daily batch file to the EBT system.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.4: Retailer Maintenance
Batch Files	4.6: Retailer Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.6 RETAILER BANK MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X	**X**		Either

This is one of the more complicated functions in terms of assigning the database of record and user interface. The EBT system ultimately is the system that will use the bank routing and account data to initiate the settlement process. However, the choice for database of record and user interface is dependent on a State Agency's approach to implementing EBT.

The first thing to understand is that in some State Agency EBT environments it may be necessary for banking data to be captured and maintained for all retailers while in other environments only a subset of retailers require banking data to be maintained. In an EBT environment where all of the retailers connect directly into the EBT system and

payments are made directly to each retailer account, banking information must be maintained for all authorized retailers.

Another type of State Agency environment is one where retailers use entities known as third party processors (TPPs) to route transactions and consolidate settlement. In these situations, the EBT system does not directly interact with the retailer, but with the TPP. Settlement is made to the TPP, for instance, instead of directly to the retailer. Therefore when a TPP is used by a retailer, there is no need to maintain banking data for that individual retailer. Additionally, within the same State Agency there may be other set-ups for retailers that require that banking information be maintained in order for them to receive their payment via the EBT processor or financial institution used by the State Agency.

How does the retailer transaction routing environment affect the choice of where to put this function? If banking data collection is only on an exception basis, it becomes more of an operation of EBT than a vendor management functionality. Rather than introduce banking data into the MIS, a system that does not actually use it, it would seem logical to enter and maintain it via the EBT system. On the other hand, this does not necessarily mean that in the case where banking data must be collected for all retailers the MIS should be the point of entry or system that maintains it. There is another aspect to consider.

The other consideration is the party responsible for and/or contractually obligated to the retailer for ensuring payment. In an in-house environment where the State Agency is responsible for retailer payments and therefore for the collection and maintenance of banking data it may be more appropriate to enter and maintain banking data via the MIS. In this environment, State Agency staff as part of normal vendor management activities would be recording various types of demographic data in the vendor management component of the MIS. Assuming the collection of banking data is also part of State Agency's vendor management functions, it would be logical to enter the banking data into the MIS with other retailer information. The MIS would then be responsible for transmitting that data to the EBT system.

When the EBT system and services have been outsourced, the EBT service provider is typically responsible for deploying equipment or working with direct connect retailers to process and settle transactions. Part of this responsibility includes executing agreements with these retailers related to processing and settlement. In this environment, the EBT processor is responsible for collecting the banking information from the retailer; therefore, it would be more logical to enter and maintain the banking data via the EBT system.

To support these various scenarios, the Universal Interface supports the ability for either system to maintain banking data and be the user interface for that data.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.4: Retailer Maintenance
Batch Files	4.6: Retailer Batch File 4.7: Retail Corporation Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.7 CATEGORY/SUBCATEGORY MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	**MIS** DB of Record	**NUPC** DB of Record	**User Interface**
		X	NUPC

Although State Agencies have not yet integrated the NUPC into their EBT processes, it is the goal of FNS to make the NUPC database the entry point and database of record for category and subcategory additions and updates. For this reason, it has been designated the database or record and user interface for this function. Category and subcategory data are data elements included in the UPC download files available through the NUPC database, the specifications for this file have been defined in the WIC National UPC Database System Upload/Download File Specifications Release Version 2.1.[23] This Universal Interface does not specifically address category and subcategory maintenance as this functionality is anticipated to reside in the NUPC database and the specifications for download of this data are documented elsewhere.

In implementations where the State Agency chooses to have the EBT system interface with the NUPC to obtain category / subcategory and UPC/PLU data, there still will be a need for the MIS to obtain the category / subcategory data as the MIS uses this data in issuing benefits. To support this, the Universal Interface provides the requirements for transmitting category/subcategory data from the EBT system to the MIS.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

[2] This can be found in the FNS WIC EBT Document Library at http://www.fns.usda.gov/apd/Library/WIC_EBt_docs.htm

[3] NUPC supports a download of the approved products (APL) and a National cat/subcat file download

Message Based Access	0: Category/Subcategory Maintenance
Batch Files	4.9: Category / Subcategory Batch Files
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.8 UPC/PLU MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
		X	NUPC

Similar to category and subcategory maintenance, it is the goal of FNS to make the NUPC database the entry point and database of record for UPC and PLU additions and updates. For this reason, it has been designated the database of record and user interface for this function. It is understood that some State Agencies may choose to enter this data via another system and then upload it to the NUPC. UPC and PLU data are data elements included in the UPC download file available through the NUPC database. In addition to the download file, the specifications for the upload of UPC data to the NUPC have been defined in the WIC National UPC Database System Upload/Download File Specifications Release Version 2.1.[4] This document does not specifically address UPC/PLU maintenance as this functionality is anticipated to reside in the NUPC database and the specifications for download of this data are documented elsewhere.

If a State Agency chooses to have the MIS interface with the NUPC to obtain UPC/PLU data, there is still a need to transmit this data to the EBT system for use in distributing the APL file and processing transactions. To support this, the Universal Interface provides the requirements for transmitting UPC/PLU data from the MIS to the EBT system either in real-time or in a batch file.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.10: APL and MAR Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

[4] This can be found in the FNS WIC EBT Document Library at http://www.fns.usda.gov/apd/Library/WIC_EBt_docs.htm

2.2.9 MAR CALCULATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X	X		Either

MAR calculations and maintenance is a function with which State Agencies are familiar from the paper environment. However, the way it is implemented in EBT is slightly different. In paper the paper environment the MAR is set for a group of foods on a food instrument, while in EBT is set at either the subcategory of food such as Peanut Butter or at the UPC level such as a specific 18 ounce jar of JIF peanut butter. To establish the MARs, prices captured by the EBT system as part of transaction processing is captured and used to in the MAR calculations.

Similar to cardholder and card maintenance, if one follows the philosophy of where to assign functionality discussed earlier, maximum allowable reimbursement amounts would be assigned to the EBT system for the following reasons.

- It would minimize the amount of data exchange because data does not have to be shipped to the MIS to do the calculation then transmitted back to the EBT system
- Points of failure would be reduced because the function would not require the data to be passed back and forth between systems
- Redemption data which is the key data used in MAR calculations is “natural” to the EBT system
- As the database of record for redemption data, the EBT system maintains and controls the data used for MAR calculations

With that said, historically in the paper environment, State Agencies have used their MIS or in some cases another State Agency system to calculate MARs for food instruments. It is a function over which they have always maintained control driven by existing processing as well as the uniqueness of their approved cost containment plans, peer group structures or administrative requirements. Because of this it often may prove simpler to have the MIS perform this function due to the administrative processes that are required within a State. Additionally, many of the new MIS have the ability to calculate MARs for the EBT environment has already been built. Conversely, several EBT systems do not support this functionality.

This document recognizes that this is an area where State Agencies may choose which system to use to support this function. For example, a State Agency with a robust MIS that already supports MAR calculations for EBT may choose to use the MIS for this function where a State Agency that has an older MIS that does not support MAR

calculations for EBT and has an EBT system that can perform this function may choose to have the EBT system as the database of record. Regardless of the approach, data required to be transmitted between the systems for this purpose have been provided in this document and are to be followed in the implementation of the interface.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.10: APL and MAR Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.10 ADJUSTMENTS / PAYMENTS VIA ACH

EBT DB of Record	**MIS** DB of Record	**NUPC** DB of Record	**User Interface**
	X		MIS

This function supports the ability for the MIS to initiate ACH deposits to retailer accounts via the MIS. This function is used in situations where an adjustment is needed for a transaction that has already been settled. This might occur if a retailer disputes an NTE adjustment and the State Agency agrees to adjust the transaction. The method for making this adjustment would be through an ACH payment. Another purpose for this function would be for ongoing payment for entities such as mail-order vendors or infant formula warehouses used by some State Agencies.

This function requires that banking data be collected by the State Agency, entered via the MIS and transmitted to the EBT system as part of the message. This does not necessarily mean that banking data needs to be stored by the MIS for all retailers, just entered when adjustments are made because adjustments tend to be sporadic. Banking data may not be current if not used frequently and should be verified or reentered every time an adjustment is made. For those State Agencies that use a mail-order vendor or infant formula warehouse where regular (daily) payments are made, the MIS will need to maintain banking data for these entities to transmit in the daily ACH file.

Since the MIS initiates and provides the data for this process, it is both the database of record and the user interface. This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.11: ACH Payment Request
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.11 RECONCILIATION (MIS-EBT AUTO-RECONCILIATION)

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
	X		MIS

In this function, the MIS compares the data from a file provided by the EBT system to reconcile each benefit add, update, or delete transaction that transmitted by the MIS during a given period. Because the MIS initiated these transactions, it is the database of record. The MIS shall take the file generated by the EBT system and reconcile the activity between the two systems. Any discrepancies would be viewed via the MIS through a screen or report.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.3: Daily Interface Reconciliation Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.12 REDEMPTION BATCH FILE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X			MIS

This is the file containing all redemption activity for a given period. Because the EBT system processes redemptions, it is the database of record. This file is transmitted to the MIS to be stored and for use in report and other management activities. Depending on if and how the data is used, potentially State Agency and local users could access this data via the MIS as the user interface since the data once transmitted to the MIS is stored in that system or an associated data warehouse.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.4: Redemption Batch File 4.5: Benefit Month Reconciliation Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.13 FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT AND RECONCILIATION

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X			EBT

As the database of record for redemptions, the EBT system is also responsible for determining settlement amounts for each retailer. The MIS is not involved in the function, but as noted in Section 2.2.12: Redemption Batch File, the MIS will receive data associated with this function.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	4.4: Redemption Batch File
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.14 LA / CLINIC MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
	X		Either

This is an optional feature that a State Agency may choose to implement if they want their EBT system to be able to provide reporting by local agency and/or clinic. The MIS in this case must be able to transmit local agency and/or clinic demographic data to the EBT system. Conversely, rather than implementing this function in the interface, the MIS could use the redemption data transmitted from the EBT system to do similar reporting by local agency and/or clinic. In either case, the MIS is the database of record for the local agency / clinic data and is also the user interface for the entry or update of this information.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	3.7: Clinic Maintenance
Batch Files	N/A
Direct Screen Links	N/A

2.2.15 CARD INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X	X		Either

Like cardholder/card maintenance, card inventory management can be handled by either system depending on the capabilities of either system. It should be noted that the database of record designation for this function does not have to match the cardholder/card maintenance function. It is possible for the MIS, for example to track card inventory levels by volume without maintain card number data.

2.2.16 EBT SECURITY ROLE MAINTENANCE

EBT DB of Record	MIS DB of Record	NUPC DB of Record	User Interface
X	X		Both

The Universal Interface is only concerned with security role maintenance when direct screen links are used between the systems. For example if a user clicks a link in the MIS that opens a page (or screen) in the EBT system. To support direct screen links between the systems without requiring a separate log on, single sign-on (SSO) functionality can be supported. If a State Agency intends to use only message based and batch file transmissions, it is not required to address SSO functionality in its interface.

Because there are two systems involved both with their own security functions, each is defined as the database of record for the users and roles associated with its own system. Also for this same reason, each system is the user interface to add, update and delete users from its own system.

This function is represented in the following sections of the document.

Message Based Access	N/A
Batch Files	N/A
Direct Screen Links	5: Direct Screen Links

2.3 IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

WIC operations in a clinic setting are generally real time in nature. The regulation, to paraphrase, is for same day service which is usually interpreted as participants leaving the clinic with food benefits in hand.[5] Consequently, many of the interactions between the WIC MIS and the WIC EBT environments, such as an account set up or a benefit issuance, require a real time interface. An inherent objective for the universal interface is to make access to EBT functionality seamless to a user in the WIC clinic. Also inherent in describing this functionality is the understanding that the use of the functionality is driven by the MIS user. The EBT system is passive and only responds to requests from the MIS. This document describes three approaches to implementing the universal interface. These may be used independently or in combination depending on the needs and preferences of the application designer.

1. *Message Based Access:*

The first approach is to have the MIS invoke EBT functionality by sending a message to the EBT system. (A common implementation of this approach might be the use of a WEB service call using Simple Object Access Protocol [SOAP]). With this approach, the MIS will provide the user interface (e.g. paint the screens) that will either gather the data necessary to execute an EBT function or present the results of an EBT query to the clinic user. Message based access addresses the following functions:

- Account Maintenance
    - Create Electronic Benefit Account (EBA)
    - Update EBA
    - View EBA Details
    - Get EBA Details
    - Get Household ID Using Card Number
- Benefit Maintenance
    - Add / Adjust Benefits
    - Get Benefit Balance
    - Get Transaction History
- Cardholder/Card Maintenance
    - Add Cardholder UI
    - Add Cardholder/Card
    - Submit PIN
    - Get Cardholders/Cards
    - Get Cardholders/Cards for Household

[5] Regulation reference: 7 CFR 264.7(f)(2)(iv)

    - Deactivate Card
    - Replace Card
    - Unlock PIN
- Retailer Maintenance
    - Create Retailer
    - Update Retailer
    - Deactivate Retailer
    - Reactivate Retailer
- Category/Subcategory Maintenance
    - Get Category Information
    - Get Subcategory Information
- Local Agency Maintenance
    - Create Local Agency
    - Update Local Agency
    - Deactivate Local Agency
    - Reactivate Local Agency
- Clinic Maintenance
    - Create Clinic
    - Update Clinic
    - Deactivate Clinic
    - Reactivate Clinic

2. Batch files:

This document also describes a batch interface for the transfer of bulk data between the MIS and EBT environments. This can be a two way data flow, with some of the batch transfers being initiated by the MIS and others by the EBT system.

Batch Interface	Initiator	Purpose
Redemption Data	EBT	Provide the MIS with a detail record of all benefit redemption activity.
Reconciliation	Either	Either the MIS or EBT system should pass to the other a batch file documenting the activity that was processed real time throughout the day. This allows the receiving system to validate and reconcile this data against its record of real time data transfers.

Batch Interface	Initiator	Purpose
Retailer Data	MIS	The MIS is the master of retailer data and may want to pass portions of this data to the EBT system in a batch mode. Minimally, this interface would be used to keep the EBT system informed of approved WIC retailers and their peer groups.
Retailer Status File	EBT	This file can optionally be use to transmit retailer status data to the MIS. This function I
Category / subcategory and UPC	Either	Either the MIS or EBT systems may interact with the NUPC to get the Category / subcategory and UPC data. Both systems need portions of this data and a batch interaction may be necessary to pass the data between the two systems.
Maximum price data	MIS	If the MIS chooses to maintain the maximum allowable price for food items, it will have to pass this data (for each peer group) to the EBT system.
ACH Payment Request	MIS	To support retailer adjustments associated with settled transactions or payments to non-traditional vendors such as mail-order vendors or formula warehouses, a State Agency may chose to use an ACH payment process. If supported by their EBT system, the MIS can initiate the payment by sending the ACH data to the EBT system.
Card Change	EBT	If a State Agency chooses to maintain card status on the MIS and also allows changes to be made to card status via the EBT system, the EBT system must provide the MIS with any updates that have occurred within a given period. This file allows the MIS to update its records to reflect any changes made via the EBT system.

For an application designer, there are two important considerations to keep in mind when evaluating the use of the batch processes.

- Some of the above batch functions could also be implemented using message based functionality.
- Where should the underlying functionality reside. This has been discussed previously and the recommendation is to generally let each system deal with data that is natural to itself. As an example, it may be that the EBT system, which is the master for redemption data, provides some very powerful archive

and reporting capabilities that are exposed to the agency user. Consequently, it might be redundant (and create additional work effort) for the MIS to also implement this existing functionality and therefore, use of the batch redemption file may not be necessary.

3. *Direct Screen links:*

The assumption underlying this approach is that both the MIS and EBT system have a native WEB based user interface that allows a user to perform a range of EBT functions. The EBT system itself provides the user access and provides the screens needed to execute the functionality.

Interface functions provide tools that allow a clinic user that is logged on to the MIS to readily gain access to the EBT system's native interface without ever having to leave the MIS environment to log on separately to the EBT environment. Their MIS user identification (ID) and password can be configured to provide access to the EBT user interface. This is referred to as a single sign on (SSO) approach. Once the security is properly constructed, the MIS, using the interface protocols described in this document, would be able to invoke the screen presentations native to the EBT system transparently to the clinic user.

2.4 SECURITY CONISIDERATIONS

This document does not address specific security requirements related to the transfer of data between systems. State Agencies will be responsible for taking measures to secure data and maintain appropriate access rights for end users. It is expected that State Agencies will follow the standards and guidelines identified by USDA in regulations or guidance documentation as well as appropriate industry standards.

2.5 SECTION ORGANIZATION

Sections 3, 4 and 5 in this document address the Message Based Access, Batch File, and Direct Screen Links forms of communications between MIS and EBT systems.

Each section is organized as follows:

2.5.1 DESCRIPTION AND OPERATIONS

1. Each section starts with a brief description of the functional area.
2. There is a section detailing the database of record for the functional area and which system should implement the user interface for the functional area.
3. There is a table listing the various operations implemented in the EBT System.

4. There are following subsections that describe each operation. If the WIC MIS is the master of the information, then the first operation that is documented is the operation (usually Create) that establishes the data object in the EBT System. In this way, a reader who is interested in a higher level view of the information presented in this document can focus on the information in the first subsection. Furthermore, each subsection describing a specific operation is organized as follows:
    a. There is a brief description of the operation.
    b. There is a table of input parameters for the operation. The table only covers the core elements needed for the specific operation. Additional general parameters that exist for the purpose of fulfilling logging requirements (such as username of user requesting operation or trace numbers) are documented below.
    c. Any processing rules governing the action are listed.

2.5.2 PARAMETER TABLE LAYOUT

The input parameters for a request shall appear in a table with the following columns:

- Data element name – Name of parameter. Note that the parameter description appears in the Data Element Dictionary.
- CC – Condition Code – Indicates whether the parameter is required or may be NULL. The possible values are:
    - M – Indicates that a parameter is mandatory and may not be NULL.
    - O – Indicates that a parameter is optional and may be NULL. For update operations, if the field has an existing value and that value is to be preserved, then the existing value must be supplied as a parameter in the update operation. A value of null will cause the existing value to be overwritten with null.
    - C – Indicates that a parameter may be required depending on the specific type of implementation being used.
- Notes – Any additional notes on parameter usage. Note that this column may be omitted if there are no additional notes on any parameters.

3 MESSAGE BASED ACCESS

Message based access is used for performing real time transfers of data between MIS and EBT systems. The following table lists common parameters that are unique to real time transactions. Batch files will have different requirements although some of the same information may be present in the header record of the file.

Data element name	Notes	CC
System ID		M
Security Token		M
MIS Local Agency ID		O
MIS Clinic ID		C
Trace Number		M
Username		M
MIS System ID		M
Workstation ID		O
Date/Time		M
WIC State Agency ID		M

Note that these parameters are not required for direct screen calls (see section 5: Direct Screen Links) in the EBT System since the necessary parameter values are either:

- Derived from the user's session (Username, MIS System ID, WIC State Agency)
- Initialized by the EBT System (System ID, Token, Date/Time)
- Not required when called from the EBT System screens (Trace Number)

3.1 ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE

Account maintenance comprises operations for maintaining an electronic benefit account (EBA) in the EBT System. An EBA can mean account data maintained on the EBT host (online) or the smart card in combination with data maintained at the EBT settlement server. In particular, the EBA is linked to a household using the MIS Household ID. An EBA ties together all of the various data elements required to enable EBT functionality for a household. Such data elements include benefit information, card data and transaction history. Subsequent operations on the EBA require the presence of the MIS Household ID which is used by the EBT System to identify the EBA to which the operation shall apply.

The following table lists account maintenance operations.

Operation
Create EBA
Update EBA
Get EBA Details
Get Household ID Using Card Number

3.1.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS
Notes	EBT system maintains account demographics, but account set-up, update, and deactivation is initiated from the MIS

3.1.2 CREATE EBA

The Create EBA operation is used to establish an EBA in the EBT System and link the EBA to a household from the MIS. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Household ID		M
Head of Household Name		O
Head of Household Date of Birth		C
Household Zip Code		C
Household Address (Mailing Address)		O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.1.2.1	Validation that the MIS Household ID does not already exist for calling WIC State Agency (not necessarily applicable for smart card).
3.1.2.2	This operation returns an EBA ID that is generated by the EBT System. Use of this information by the WIC MIS is optional.

The EBT System expects that the MIS shall perform any necessary checks for dual participation.

3.1.3 UPDATE EBA

This function is used to change the household DOB, name, or address that is held in the EBT database. It is also, for those MIS that do not have unique Household IDs statewide, allows the household IDs associated with an EBA to be updated. For example, IDs may be unique within a local agency and can be appended with a local agency ID to make the ID unique statewide; however, when that household moves to another local agency they will receive a new household ID. This function allows the MIS to update an EBA with new Household ID. It should be noted that it is highly recommended that MIS support unique Household IDs statewide. It also should be noted that if a State Agency has unique Household IDs statewide, this function does not need to be implemented.

The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
(OLD) MIS Household ID	ID of MIS Household to which this operation applies.	M
(NEW) MIS Household ID	If present, this Household ID will be associated to the EBA and the old Household ID will be deactivated.	O
Head of Household Name		O
Head of Household DOB		C
Household Address		O
Head of Household Zip		C

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.1.3.1	Validation that the (OLD) MIS household ID exists.
3.1.3.2	If a (NEW) MIS Household ID is provided, then the EBT System shall validate that the New MIS household ID does not already exist.
3.1.3.3	If a (NEW) MIS Household ID is provided, then the EBT System shall deactivate the (OLD) MIS Household ID (Optional)

3.1.4 GET EBA DETAILS

The Get EBA Details operation causes the EBT System to return detailed information on the EBA. This function allows an MIS user the ability to have EBA information displayed via an MIS screen.

The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name		CC
MIS Household ID		M

The following data elements are returned:

Data element name
MIS Household ID
Head of Household (HOH) Name
Head of Household Date of Birth (HOH DOB)
Household Zip Code
Household Address (Mailing Address)

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.1.4.1	The EBT System shall identify the EBA and return the household data information.

3.1.5 GET HOUSEHOLD ID USING CARD NUMBER

This function supports the use of the EBT card number to identify the Household ID and then display the household record in the MIS. For example, an EBT card is inserted or swiped; the household ID is obtained triggering the MIS to open the record for that household. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Card Number		M

The following data elements are returned:

Data element name
Household ID
Card Status Date
Card Status
Cardholder Type

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall identify the EBA associated with the card number and return the data elements associated.

3.2 BENEFIT MAINTENANCE

Benefit maintenance comprises operations for maintaining benefit information associated with an EBA in the EBT System. The following table lists benefit maintenance operations.

Operation
Add / Adjust Benefits
Get Benefit Balance
Get Transaction History

3.2.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

3.2.2 ADD / ADJUST BENEFITS

The Add / Adjust Benefits operation is used to add or remove benefits from an EBA. It is either a debit or a credit of a benefit amount. In particular, this operation is used for benefit issuance, but can also be used to make adjustments to benefits if there is a food package change or other need. The following table lists the data elements:

Data element name		CC
MIS Household ID		M
Credit/Debit Indicator		M
Card Number (Smart Card)		I
Reason Code		M
A list of the following elements:		
Benefit ID		M
Benefit Begin Date		M
Benefit End Date		M
Category Code		M
Subcategory Code		M
Benefit Quantity		M

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.2.2.1	Validation that the MIS Household ID exists and is active.
3.2.2.2	Validation that the combination of Category Code and Subcategory Code is valid.
3.2.2.3	If the transaction is a debit, then the Benefit Begin Date and Benefit End Date must exactly match the Benefit Begin Date and Benefit End Date for the categories and subcategories to be debited.
3.2.2.4	If the transaction is a debit, then the EBT System shall only perform the debit if there is sufficient balance to post the entire debit.
3.2.2.5	If the transaction is a credit, then there must be validation that the total Benefit Quantity (units) available for the Category Code and Subcategory Code on a given date shall not exceed 999.99 (this would exceed the maximum balance that can be returned in an X9.93 message).
3.2.2.6	Validation that the Reason Code is defined for the WIC State Agency.

3.2.3 GET BENEFIT BALANCE

The Get Benefit Balance operation is used to retrieve benefit information for a particular EBA. This function allows the MIS to retrieve from the EBT host (online), the card (smart card) or the settlement server (smart card) the remaining balance for the EBA and display it via the MIS. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
WIC State Agency ID		M
Card Number		C
MIS Household ID		C
Request Begin Date		O
Request End Date		O

Note that either the Card Number or MIS Household ID parameter must be present.

A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
Benefit ID
Category Code
Category Long Description
Subcategory Code
Subcategory Long Description
Unit of Measure Description
Available Benefit Quantity
Active Hold Quantity
Benefit Begin Date
Benefit End Date

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.2.3.1	Validation that the MIS Household ID exists and is active.
3.2.3.2	If only the current balance is requested, then the EBT System shall only return records where the current date is between the Benefit Begin Date and Benefit End Date.
3.2.3.3	If all benefits are requested, then the EBT System shall return the current balance plus any benefits available in the future. Expired benefits are not returned.

3.2.4 GET TRANSACTION HISTORY

The Get Transaction History operation is used to retrieve transaction data for a particular EBA. This function allows the MIS to retrieve from the EBT host (online) or

the settlement server (smart card) the transaction history for a given period for the EBA and display it via the MIS. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
WIC State Agency ID		M
Card Number		C
MIS Household ID		C
Start Date		M
End Date		M

Note that either the Card Number or MIS Household ID parameter must be present.

A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
Unique Transaction Identifier
Transaction Code
Host date and time
Store Date and Time
Work Station ID (Clinic Transactions)
Initiating User ID (Clinic Transactions)
Card Acceptor ID Code
Card Acceptor Terminal ID
Forwarding Institution ID
Acquiring Institution ID
Settlement Date
Business Date
Retailer ID
Clinic ID
Vendor Peer Group
PAN
Household ID
Benefit ID
Benefit Begin Date
Benefit End Date
Request Amount
Total MAR adjustments
Discount Amount

Data element name
Paid amount
Line Item ID[6]
Category Code
Category Long Description
Subcategory Code
Subcategory Long Description
Category Code
Category Long Description
Subcategory Code
Subcategory Long Description
Unit of Measure
Unit of Measure Description
Repeating cat / sub cat elements
UPC
UPC Description
Quantity
Item price
Paid amount

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.2.4.1	Validation that the MIS Household ID exists and is active.

3.3 CARDHOLDER/CARD MAINTENANCE

Cardholder maintenance comprises operations for maintaining cardholders in the EBT System. Cardholders and cards are required in order to access EBT benefits associated with an EBA in the EBT System.

[6] There will likely be multiple items tying to the same transaction (i.e. a purchase or issuance with multiple line items) and therefore there may be multiple rows associated with the same transaction ID. Line Item ID will identify each item distinctly.

Operation
Add Cardholder/Card
Submit PIN
Get Cardholders/Cards
Get Cardholders/Cards for Household
Deactivate Card
Replace Card
Unlock PIN

The EBT System implements additional operations for updating cardholder information as well as operations for deactivating and replacing cards.

3.3.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

For the functions defined in this section, the following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	Either
Interface	MIS

3.3.2 ADD CARDHOLDER/CARD

The following table lists the general data elements that are required for establishing a cardholder and card in the EBT System.

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Household ID		M
Card Number		M
Cardholder Name		M
Cardholder Date of Birth (DOB)		M
Cardholder Type		M
Cardholder Phone Number		O
Cardholder ZIP code		O

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.3.2.1	Validation that the MIS Household ID exists and is active.
3.3.2.2	Validation that the Card Number exists and has not been previously issued.
3.3.2.3	(Online Only) If the Cardholder Type is “Primary”, then the EBT System shall validate that there is not already an active primary cardholder associated with the given household.
3.3.2.4	(Online Only) If the Cardholder Type is “Secondary”, then the EBT System shall validate that there is already a primary cardholder associated with the household.
3.3.2.5	(Online Only) If the Cardholder Type is “Secondary”, then the EBT System shall validate that the addition of the new cardholder will not exceed the maximum number of allowed cardholders per household.
3.3.2.6	If the Encrypted PIN Block is supplied and is valid, then the EBT System shall translate the Encrypted PIN Block into a new encrypted PIN block that is suitable for internal database storage.
3.3.2.7	If all validations are passed, then the EBT System shall create a new cardholder record and associate the cardholder with the given card and household.

3.3.3 SUBMIT PIN

This operation is used to associate a PIN with the cardholder of the given card (online) or to associate a PIN with a card (smart card).

The following table lists the general data elements

Data element name	Notes	CC
Card Number		M
Encrypted PIN Block		M
New PIN Flag		M

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.3.3.1	Validation that the Card Number is active and associated with a valid EBA.
3.3.3.2	Validation that the Encrypted PIN Block is valid.
3.3.3.3	If the Encrypted PIN Block is supplied and is valid: • (Online) Then the EBT System Processor shall translate the Encrypted PIN Block into a new encrypted PIN block that is suitable for internal database storage. • (Smart Card) Then the PIN is updated on the smart card

3.3.4 GET CARDHOLDERS/CARDS

This operation is used to get a list of cardholders and cards. It is designed to provide maximum flexibility to the MIS and to support the varying methods that different MIS may use to search for cards/cardholders. For those implementations were the EBT system is the database of record for cards, this allows the MIS to access the EBT system, obtain card and cardholder data associated to and EBA and display that data via the MIS. The following table lists the general data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Cardholder Name		O
Cardholder DOB		O
Cardholder Address		O
Card Number		O
Household ID		O
Cardholder Type		O
Card Status		O

A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
Cardholder ID
Cardholder Name
Cardholder DOB
Cardholder Address
Card Number
Household ID

Data element name
Cardholder Type
Card Status
Card Activation Date
Card Deactivation Date

3.3.5 GET CARDHOLDERS/CARDS FOR HOUSEHOLD

While the operation above can be used to retrieve a list of cardholders and cards for a household, this operation provides a simpler and more "tuned" interface for doing so. This is a function that is used when the EBT system is the database of record for cardholders/cards.

The following table lists the general data elements

Data element name	Notes	CC
Household ID		M
Start Date		O
End Date		O

A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
Card Number
Cardholder ID
Cardholder Name
Card Status Date
Card Status Code
Cardholder Type

3.3.6 DEACTIVATE CARD

This operation is used to deactivate a card. This is a function that is used when the EBT system is the database of record for cardholders/cards and deactivation is initiated via the MIS. It can also be used with the MIS as the database of record to update the EBT system that a card has been deactivated. A common use for this operation occurs when a cardholder wishes to report a card as lost or stolen. In a smart card system it will be used to add the card to the Hot Card List (HCL) that is downloaded to retailer locations.

Often a cardholder will not know the card number of the card that they are reporting as lost or stolen. For this reason, it is advised that when the EBT system is the database of record for cards/cardholders, the MIS first use Get Cardholders/Cards or Get Cardholders/Cards by Household in order to find the card number of the card to be deactivated.

The following table lists the general data elements:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Card Number		M
Card Status Code		M

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.3.6.1	The card status is changed to the value in Card Status Code. The card will no longer be usable for transactions.

3.3.7 REPLACE CARD

This operation is used to replace a card.

The following table lists the general data elements

Data element name	Notes	CC
Cardholder ID		M
New Card Number		M
Card Status Code		M

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.3.7.1	Validation that the Card Number exists and has not been previously issued.
3.3.7.2	If the cardholder currently has an active card, then the existing active card is deactivated.
3.3.7.3	(Online) Since the PIN is associated with the cardholder, the PIN is unchanged for the new. Note that the PIN may still be changed by invoking the Submit PIN operation.

3.3.8 UNLOCK PIN

This operation is used to remove a PIN block from a card and reset the invalid PIN attempt count to zero.

The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Card Number		M

The following describes the effect of invoking this operation.

Rule ID	Description
3.3.8.1	Validation that the Card Number is active and associated with a valid EBA.
3.3.8.2	The PIN block is removed and the invalid PIN attempt count is reset to 0.

3.4 RETAILER MAINTENANCE

Retail maintenance comprises operations for maintaining retailer information needed by the EBT System. The following are the recommend operations.

Operation
Create Retailer
Update Retailer
Deactivate Retailer
Reactivate Retailer

3.4.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

For the functions defined in this section, the following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

3.4.2 CREATE RETAILER

The Create Retailer operation is used to establish retailer information in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)		M
Peer Group ID		M
Retailer Name		M
Retail Activation Date		M
ACH Settlement Time	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O
Over 50%		M
Direct Connect Flag	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O
Direct Connect Auto-recon	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O
Total Food Sales		M
Contracting Agency		M
Retailer Address		M
Contact Name		O
Contact Phone		M
Contact Alternate Phone		O
Contact Email		O
Corporation ID		O

Data element name	Notes	CC
ABA Routing Transit Number[7]		O
Bank Account Number		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
3.4.2.1	Validation that MIS Retailer Number does not already exist for the calling system.

3.4.3 UPDATE RETAILER

The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)		M
Peer Group ID		M
Retailer Name		M
Retail Activation Date		M
ACH Settlement Time	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O
Over 50%		M
Direct Connect Flag	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O

[7] Appropriate measures should be applied to ensure that the security of banking data is maintained.

Data element name	Notes	CC
Direct Connect Auto-recon	This parameter is used by a MIS that chooses to provide a UI for gathering this information; however, it is recommended that the EBT System be used to maintain this information.	O
Total Food Sales		M
Contracting Agency		M
Retailer Address	Store mailing address	M
Retailer location	Address of specific location	O
Contact Name		O
Contact Phone		M
Contact Alternate Phone		O
Contact Email		O
Corporation ID		O
ABA Routing Transit Number[8]		O
Bank Account Number		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
3.4.3.1	Validation that MIS Retailer Number already exists for the calling system.

3.4.4 DEACTIVATE RETAILER

The Deactivate Retailer operation is used to deactivate a retailer in the EBT System. The EBT System will not accept transactions from a retailer once it has been deactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

[8] Appropriate measures should be applied to ensure that the security of banking data is maintained.

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)		M
Retailer Deactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.4.4.1	Validation that the MIS Retailer Number already exists.
3.4.4.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the retailer to indicate that it is no longer active. Note that the retailer record is not deleted from the EBT System.

3.4.5 REACTIVATE RETAILER

The Reactivate Retailer operation is used to reactivate a retailer that already exists in the EBT System, but has been deactivated. The EBT System will be able to accept transactions from a retailer once it has been reactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)		M
Retailer Reactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.4.5.1	Validation that the MIS Retailer Number already exists.
3.4.5.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the retailer to indicate that it is active.

3.5 CATEGORY/SUBCATEGORY MAINTENANCE

The area of category/subcategory maintenance comprises operations for maintaining the list of food categories and subcategories used by the WIC State Agency. The preferred solution is to use the FNS standard list of categories and subcategories. This list is maintained within the National Universal Product Code (NUPC) database (maintained by FNS). The assumption is that a State Agency will be using functionality provided by the NUPC to maintain their list of food categories / subcategories and approved products (UPCs).

This information will be downloaded as needed to either the MIS or the EBT environments (both will have a need for this information) for local use. It is an agency option as to whether the MIS, the EBT System, or both provide the functionality to download this information.

The Category/Subcategory Maintenance function is used when the EBT system is responsible for downloading the data from the NUPC. If the MIS performs the download function, then this function does not need to be implemented within the interface.

The functionality described in this section assumes that the EBT System is maintaining a connection with NUPC for the purpose of retrieving UPC information and that rather than having the MIS also support this interface, it will retrieve the category and subcategory information it needs from the EBT System. If an Agency elects to have the MIS be the master of UPC management then an interface will be required to allow the transfer of EBT needed information to the EBT system. This is envisioned to be a batch data transfer and is described in the section on batch files.

3.5.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

For the functions defined in this section, the following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	NUPC Download to EBT System
Interface	NUPC

3.5.2 GET CATEGORY INFORMATION

This following table lists information needed by MIS in order to maintain food categories. Ultimately, NUPC shall be the database of record for food categories. The

EBT System shall maintain a link with NUPC to obtain updated food category information. This information shall be made available to the MIS from the EBT System. Note that there are no additional parameters (beyond the common parameters) for the request. A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
WIC State Agency ID
Category Code
Category Long Description
Category Short Description
Category Begin Date
Category End Date

3.5.3 GET SUBCATEGORY INFORMATION

The following table lists the data elements needed by MIS in order to maintain food subcategories. Ultimately, NUPC shall be the database of record for food subcategories. The EBT System shall maintain a link with NUPC to obtain updated food subcategory information. This information shall be made available to MIS from the EBT System. Note that there are no additional parameters (beyond the common parameters) for the request. A list of the following data elements is returned:

Data element name
WIC State Agency ID
Category Code
Subcategory Code
Subcategory Long Description
Subcategory Short Description
Unit of Measure Abbreviation
Require Prescription Flag
Subcategory Begin Date
Subcategory End Date

3.6 LOCAL AGENCY MAINTENANCE

Local agency maintenance comprises operations for maintaining local agency information needed by the EBT System. Storage of local agency information is optional and depends upon whether it wishes for the EBT System to enable certain functionality such as reporting that makes use of local agency.

Operation
Create Local Agency
Update Local Agency
Deactivate Local Agency
Reactivate Clinic

3.6.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

For the functions defined in this section, the following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

3.6.2 CREATE LOCAL AGENCY

The Create Local Agency operation creates a clinic information record in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Local Agency ID		M
Local Agency Name		M
Local Agency Address	This is required if the EBT System is providing card inventory management services.	O
Phone Number	This is required if the EBT System is providing card inventory management services.	O
Local Agency Contact Name	If the EBT System is providing card inventory management services, then will be default name for directing card shipments to the clinic.	O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	Validation that Local Agency ID does not already exist for the calling system.

3.6.3 UPDATE LOCAL AGENCY

The Update Local Agency operation updates the clinic information record in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request.

Data element name	Notes	CC
Local Agency ID		M
Local Agency Name		M
Local Agency Address		O
Phone Number		O
Local Agency Contact Name		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
3.6.3.1	Validation that Local Agency ID already exists for the calling system.

3.6.4 DEACTIVATE LOCAL AGENCY

The Deactivate Local Agency operation is used to deactivate a local agency in the EBT System. The EBT System will not accept transactions from a local agency once it has been deactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Local Agency ID		M
Local Agency Deactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.6.4.1	Validation that the Local Agency ID already exists.
3.6.4.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the local agency to indicate that it is no longer active. Note that the local agency record is not deleted from the EBT System.

3.6.5 REACTIVATE LOCAL AGENCY

The Reactivate Local Agency operation is used to reactivate a local agency that already exists in the in the EBT System, but has been deactivated. The EBT System will be able to accept transactions from a local agency once it has been reactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Local Agency ID		M
Local Agency Reactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.6.5.1	Validation that the Local Agency ID already exists.
3.6.5.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the local agency to indicate that it is active.

3.7 CLINIC MAINTENANCE

Clinic Maintenance comprises operations for maintaining clinic information needed by the EBT System. At minimum, the EBT System needs the ID's of valid clinics so that the source of transactions may be properly logged. Optionally, Clinic data can be used by the EBT system for reporting as well as supporting card inventory activities. This requires some basic demographic information be stored in the EBT System. The following are the recommend operations.

Operation
Insert Clinic
Update Clinic
Deactivate Clinic
Reactivate Clinic

3.7.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

For the functions defined in this section, the following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

3.7.2 CREATE CLINIC

The Create Clinic operation creates a clinic information record in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Clinic ID		M
Clinic Name		M
Clinic Address	This is required if the EBT System is providing card inventory management services.	O
Phone Number	This is required if the EBT System is providing card inventory management services.	O
Clinic Contact Name	If the EBT System is providing card inventory management services, then will be default name for directing card shipments to the clinic.	O
Local Agency ID	ID of the local agency to which the clinic belongs.	O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
3.7.2.1	Validation that Clinic ID does not already exist for the calling system.

3.7.3 UPDATE CLINIC

The Update Clinic operation updates the clinic information record in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request.

Data element name	Notes	CC
Clinic ID		M
Clinic Name		M
Clinic Address		O
Phone Number		O
Clinic Contact Name		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
3.7.3.1	Validation that Clinic ID already exists for the calling system.

3.7.4 DEACTIVATE CLINIC

The Deactivate Clinic operation is used to deactivate a clinic in the EBT System. the EBT System will not accept transactions from a clinic once it has been deactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Clinic ID		M
Clinic Deactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.7.4.1	Validation that the Clinic ID already exists.
3.7.4.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the clinic to indicate that it is no longer active. Note that the clinic record is not deleted from the EBT System.

3.7.5 REACTIVATE CLINIC

The Reactivate Clinic operation is used to reactivate a clinic that already exists in the in the EBT System, but has been deactivated. The EBT System will be able to accept transactions from a clinic once it has been reactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Clinic ID		M
Clinic Reactivation Date	If this parameter is NULL, then the EBT System assumes the current date.	O

The following table lists the processing rules:

Rule ID	Description
3.7.5.1	Validation that the Clinic ID already exists.
3.7.5.2	The EBT System shall update the status associated with the clinic to indicate that it is active.

4 BATCH FILE INTERFACES

There may be a need for the communication of bulk data between the MIS and EBT system. Use of this form of interface is at the discretion of the application designer and depends upon where certain EBT related functionality has been implemented. In some instances, a comparable message data type has been defined in prior sections of this document which may be used as an alternative to file transfers. It is expected that this form of data interchange will be implemented using the following standard batch file formats.

4.1 GENERAL FILE STRUCTURE

The work group considered defining a standard header and trailer record as an envelope to encase the following batch detail record formats and to define standard file confirmation protocols and error reporting mechanisms for all file types. However, because some of the more modern data transfer implementations, such as XML, already provide the functionality normally associated with headers and trailers, and have pre-defined error handling, it was decided to leave this to the discretion of the application designer as an implementation consideration. A standard set of file management data that should be conveyed as a component of each file transfer has been defined. It is up to the application designer as to how to convey this information. These data items could be in a standard header and trailer format, they can be conveyed as XML data elements, or even via file naming conventions and FTP set up.

4.1.1 DATA REQUIRED IN ALL FILES

The following list of data elements must be included in each file transmission.

Data element name	CC	Contents
File Type	M	Standard identifier unique to each file type
Originator of file	M	Unique identifier of the file origination entity
Target of file	M	Unique identifier of the intended destination for the file
File sequence number	M	A unique number that is incremented by 1 for each file that is successfully transferred
Date and Time	M	Date and time the file was created
Format and version	M	An indicator of the format and version of the file being transferred

Data element name	CC	Contents
Security	M	User id, password, or token used to authenticate the file
Record count	M	Count of detail records contained in the file
BIN	O	Bin associated with file

The implementation of the batch interface should provide the functionality to:

- Confirm to the sending party that the file was received
- Report a file level error (e.g. wrong sequence, wrong record count, etc.)
- Report a detail record error (e.g. provide specific record identifier and indication of specific error)

4.2 PROCESSING STANDARDS

Several of the batch files presented below represent situations where the MIS is the master of the source data and, through the interface, is updating data tables in the EBT system that are used for transaction processing and settlement. Examples would be:

- Retailer file
- Category / Subcategory file
- APL / MAR file

There are several processing standards that should be applied to the use of these files.

- When a file is transmitted, it is a full replace of the existing data held by the EBT system
- Files should be transmitted on a daily basis. A zero record file will indicate that no action is to be taken by the EBT system.

4.3 DAILY INTERFACE RECONCILIATION BATCH FILE

At a specified time each day, the EBT System shall create a file that contains information for each MIS initiated Adjust (add / update / delete) Benefits transaction that was accepted and approved by the EBT system during the prior 24 hour period. The MIS should use this information to match against its view of successful Adjust Benefits transactions initiated by the MIS during the same period.

4.3.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

4.3.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Trace number	M	MIS trace number
Date and Time	M	When transaction occurred
Clinic ID	M	Clinic where transaction originated
User ID	M	System user initiating transaction
Household ID	M	WIC Family ID
Benefit Number	O	Unique identifier for this benefit
Benefit Begin Date	M	First date of benefit availability
Benefit End Date	M	Last date of benefit availability
Activity type	M	Debit or Credit
Count of Category / Subcategory	M	Number of category/subcategories
Category / Subcategory	M	Specific category/subcategory for food items redeemed
Quantity	M	Quantity added or removed

4.4 REDEMPTION BATCH FILE

A MIS may want to receive a daily file of redemption information (originated by the EBT system) for its own purposes such as MAR updated calculations, reporting, reconciliation and program management. Only approved transactions[9] will be included in this data set.

[9] Approved transactions would not include transactions that were denied by the EBT system such as a transaction that was denied for insufficient funds. Some systems may view this as a good transaction because it was successfully processed, but it did not result in the completion of the intended transaction and therefore is not considered approved.

4.4.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	EBT
Interface	MIS

4.4.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Unique Transaction Identifier	M	Authorization or trace number
Transaction Code	M	Uniquely identify the type of transaction
Host date and time	M	When transaction presented to host (for smart card – this would be when the claim file was received)
Store Date and Time	M	Date and time recorded in transaction by store
Settlement Date	M	Day on which store is to be paid
Business Date	M	Day for which transaction will appear in EBT reporting
Work Station ID	O	Workstation from which an action occurred
Initiating User ID	O	User logged in that completes the action
Card Acceptor ID Code	M	A number that identifies the retailer or store location
Card Acceptor Terminal ID	M	A number that identifies a specific terminal at the retailer or store location
Forwarding Institution ID	M	The entity forwarding the transaction
Acquiring Institution ID	M	The entity acquiring the transaction
Vendor WIC ID	M	Where transaction occurred
Vendor Peer Group	M	Peer Group of vendor
PAN	M	Card used to initiate transaction
Household ID	M	WIC Family ID
Benefit Number	O	Unique identifier for this benefit
Benefit Begin Date	M	First date of benefit availability
Benefit End Date	M	Last date of benefit availability
Activity type	M	Debit or Credit
Request Amount	M	Requested for reimbursement

Data element name	CC	Contents
Total MAR adjustments	M	Sum of MAR adjustments from detail
Discount Amount	M	Amount of discounts (if applicable)
Paid Amount	M	Amount paid (settled)
Line Item ID	M	Unique identifier for a line item within the transaction
Count of Cat / Sub Cats	M	Number of cat / sub cats elements
Repeating Cat / Sub cat Elements		Cat / sub cats elements that are repeated within the transaction
Prescribed Cat / Subcat	M	Cat / Subcat in Household EBT account balance
UPC Cat / subcat	M	Cat / subcat to which UPC is linked
UPC	M	Product code
UPC Description	M	Product description
Unit of measure	M	Unit of measure linked to UPC item from Category/subcategory table
Quantity	M	Quantity added or removed
Requested price	M	Shelf price for item (total amount based on quantity).
Paid amount	M	Net of any MAR adjustment

4.5 BENEFIT MONTH RECONCILIATION BATCH FILE

WIC grant accounting and financial management is usually organized around a "Benefit Month" which is an accounting of all food benefit issuance with a first date to spend that falls within a given calendar month. The MIS determines benefit eligibility and authorizes benefits to households while the EBT system is responsible for the management of household benefit accounts and the disbursement of those benefits.

This optional batch interface is designed to provide a final point of reconciliation of all benefit activity for a given month against the WIC financial accounting for that month as documented in the FNS - 798 report. This accounting will occur at the close out of a benefit month which occurs when all benefits issued for that month have either been redeemed or have expired. This would occur no less than a month after the last day of the reporting month; however additional time is likely needed in many systems to account for adjustments and other late closing transactions, such as manual transactions, to post to the system. The timing will be dependent on many factors and should be determined as part of the process of implementing the EBT system. The EBT

system will create and send to the MIS a batch file that documents the issuance and subsequent disbursal of all benefits that were authorized for a benefit month. The MIS will reconcile this against its accounting of all benefits that were authorized to WIC participants for the same benefit month. The file will be for each individual household receiving benefits during that month and will contain a final State Agency total.

4.5.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS / EBT
Interface	MIS

4.5.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Benefit Month	M	Benefit Month being reconciled
WIC Household ID	M	Data repeats for each Household ID in EBT and MIS system
First date to spend	M	First date of benefit availability
Last Date to Spend	M	Last date of benefit availability
Dollars settled	M	Dollars paid to retailers for this household's redemption (net of reversals)
Number of cat / sub cats	M	Number of cat / sub cat entries
Prescribed Cat / Sub Cat	M	Standard codes
Following quantities are for each Cat / Sub Cat in household account during benefit month		
Quantity issued	M	Units of benefits issues
Quantity voided by MIS	M	Units of benefits voided from MIS
Quantity redeemed	M	Units of benefits redeemed (net of reversals)
Quantity Expired	M	Units of benefits not used

4.6 RETAILER BATCH FILE

The MIS is the master of retailer data. This batch interface (which is an alternative to the real time interface), provides functionality to allow the EBT system to have and

maintain a current list of authorized WIC retailers, including minimal demographics and their peer group.

4.6.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

4.6.2 REQUIRED DATA[10]

Data element name	CC	Contents
Activity type	M	Add or Delete
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)	M	Agency retailer identifier
Store Name	M	Unique name associated with location
Peer Group ID	M	Agency assigned peer group
Store Location	M	street, city, state, Zip
Store Mail address	M	street, city, state, Zip
Corporate affiliation	O	Name of corporation
Corporation ID	O	Unique identifier of the corporation
Store contact name	M	Contact point
Store phone number	M	Store phone number
Alternate phone number	O	Other phone number such as a cell phone number
Email Address	O	Contact email address
Effective Date	M	When this did or will become active
De-activate date	O	When store is to be deactivated
Agency	O	WIC agency
Clinic	O	Clinic Agency
ABA Routing Transit Number	O	Retailer bank account routing number
Bank Account Number	O	Retailer bank account number

[10] Appropriate measures should be applied to ensure that the security of banking data is maintained.

4.7 RETAIL CORPORATION BATCH FILE

Some State Agencies may choose to organize chain retailers under a corporation record. When provided to the EBT system, this information could assist in the consolidation of settlement. If used, the MIS is the master of retailer corporation data. This batch interface provides functionality to allow the EBT system to have and maintain a current list of corporations to which retailers could be associated.

4.7.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

4.7.2 REQUIRED DATA[11]

Data element name	CC	Contents
Activity Type	M	Add or Delete
Corporation ID	M	Corporation identifier
Corporation Name	M	Unique name associated with corporation
Corporation Address	M	Corporation street, city, state, zip
Corporation Contact Name	M	Contact point
Corporation Phone Number	M	Corporation phone number
Corporation Alternate Phone Number	O	Other phone number such as a cell phone number
Corporation Email Address	O	Contact email address
Effective Date	M	When corporation did or will become active
De-Activate Date	O	When corporation is to be deactivated
ABA Routing Transit Number	O	Retailer bank account routing number
Bank Account Number	O	Retailer bank account number

[11] Appropriate measures should be applied to ensure that the security of banking data is maintained.

4.8 RETAILER STATUS FILE

This is an optional file that will be used by the EBT system to notify the MIS of a change in retailer status. Its primary purpose is for the EBT system to notify the MIS when an authorized retailer becomes "EBT capable" meaning that the store has EBT technology operational in the checkout lane and has been certified to participate in the State's WIC EBT program.

4.8.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	EBT
Interface	MIS

4.8.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
MIS Retailer Number (WIC Merchant ID)	M	Retailer number assigned by the WIC agency
Store Name	M	
Store Address	M	
Current Status	M	Status of vendor "2" means EBT capable and "1" means not EBT capable
Effective date	M	Date when the status became effective

4.9 CATEGORY / SUBCATEGORY BATCH FILES

An interface with the National UPC database and the management of the approved product list may be implemented by either the MIS or the EBT systems. If the application designer elects to place this functionality within the MIS then a batch file as described below must be provided to convey a current list of allowable food category and sub category to the EBT system.

4.9.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	EBT

4.9.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Activity type	M	Add, Update or Replace
Category	M	Standard Category Code
Subcategory	M	Standard Subcategory code
Receipt description	M	Description used on balance inquiry
Unit of measure	M	Standard unit of measure
Activation Date	O	If being newly activated
Deactivation Date	O	If being deactivated

4.10 APL AND MAR BATCH FILE

An interface with the National UPC data base and the management of the approved product list may be implemented by either the MIS or the EBT systems. If the application designer elects to place the management of the approved product list and the calculation of MAR values in the MIS then this interface will be used to convey the information to the EBT system. Note that placing this functionality in the MIS requires the use of the Redemption File defined above to provide the MIS with the information required for the calculation and maintenance of maximum prices.

Data elements reflected in this interface description may be subject to modification depending on the outcome of APL discussions and standards definitions currently in progress among industry stakeholders.

4.10.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

4.10.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
UPC / PLU	M	Product specific code

Data element name	CC	Contents
Product Description	M	Unique name associated with product
Broadband flag	M	Can the product be purchased with sub cat 000
Rebate Flag	M	Is the item subject to a rebate
Pharmacy flag	M	Allowable for purchase in a pharmacy
Manual authorization flag	M	Allowable for a manual authorization
Effective Date	M	Date to start using product
Deactivate date	M	Date to no longer allow the product
Category Code	M	Must be in cat subcat table
Sub Category code	M	Must be in cat subcat table
Exchange Size	M	Convert product packaging size into standard unit of measure for sub cat
Number of peer groups	M	Number of following peer group / max prices combinations
Peer Group ID	M	Peer group from Vendor Table
Maximum Price	M	Calculated allowable maximum price for this product.

4.11 ACH PAYMENT REQUEST

In some situations and depending on application design, a WIC Agency may wish to make a payment to a WIC vendor (or some other party) that is outside the normal course of benefit redemption and settlement. This may occur if an Agency elects, for example, to reimburse a store for a MAR exception that, in hind sight, proved unreasonable, or perhaps to pay a mail order provider of special formula or other situations.

The intent is that an EBT service provider should be able to facilitate this payment through the Automated Clearing House system based on a request transaction received from the WIC Agency. The data provided by the MIS will allow the EBT system to generate the ACH file. This eliminates the need to maintain an alternate check process for these types of payments that may occur outside of daily EBT settlement activities.

4.11.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	MIS
Interface	MIS

4.11.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Payee Identifier	M	Name of entity making payment
Trace number	M	Number to uniquely identify transaction for audit and reconciliation
Purpose	M	Descriptive purpose of payments
Effective Date	M	When payment should be made
Receiving Party	M	Name of party receiving payment (name on bank account)
ABA/routing number	M	Receiving party bank identifier
Account Number	M	Receiving party account number
Amount	M	Amount to be paid
Transaction type	M	DB or CR
Account type	M	Receiving account type (e.g. savings, checking)

4.12 CARD CHANGE FILE

Generally, the EBT system tracks household EBT cards and the card status. However, depending on application design, the MIS may choose to participate in the provision of this functionality. In this case, an interface is necessary between the EBT system and the MIS system so that changes to a card status or the replacement of a card (by mail) that may be implemented by the EBT system are conveyed to the MIS.

4.12.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	EBT
Interface	MIS

4.12.2 REQUIRED DATA

Data element name	CC	Contents
Household ID	M	WIC Household ID
Action	M	A=Activate D=Deactivate R=Reactivate
Deactivation Reason Code	O	L=Lost S=Stolen D=Damaged R=Returned U=Undeliverable O=Other
Card number	M	PAN of card being statused or replaced
Status of card	M	Status of card as a result of this activity
Replacement PAN	O	Only when card is replaced
Date and time	M	Date and time action took place

5 DIRECT SCREEN LINKS

The direct screen link approach allows the MIS to access web pages (or screens) in the EBT system by selecting a link in the MIS. This approach can only be successful if single sign-on can be achieved between the two systems so that the MIS user does not have to log into the EBT system every time an EBT link is selected.

This interface approach may not be implemented by all State Agencies. The requirements defined in the following sections only apply to those State Agencies implementing direct screen links. Those using only message based or batch file approaches can disregard these requirements.

5.1 SECURITY

In order for a system to have access to real-time services and screens in the EBT System, a system must be logged into the EBT System. Accessing screens in the EBT System carries some additional security requirements that are documented in the following SSO section. The additional security requirements are geared at appropriately restricting access of individual users based on group memberships once inside the EBT System. However, once access to an EBT System screen has been granted, only the EBT System security module may control the access level of the individual user. Note that within this construct, the MIS still has requirements to define the roles and capabilities of its users when providing direct access to the EBT environment.

5.1.1 DATABASE OF RECORD AND INTERFACE POINT(S)

The following has been identified as the system that is the database of record for this functionality and the system that will act as the interface to the data or functionality:

Database of Record	• MIS is master of MIS users • EBT is master of EBT users
Interface	• MIS user data and security functionality accessed via MIS • EBT user data and security functionality accessed via EBT

5.1.2 SYSTEM LOGON

The System Logon operation is used to grant access to an MIS to allow the MIS to invoke real-time operations in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
WIC State Agency ID		M
System ID		M
Password	The password must be encrypted.	M

The following table lists the data elements in the response:

Data element name
Security Token

In order to invoke any subsequent real-time operation in the EBT System, the MIS must provide the WIC State Agency ID and System ID used when invoking this System Logon operation along with the Security Token that is returned from this operation.

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall validate that System ID and WIC State Agency ID are valid and that the given System ID has access for the WIC State Agency ID.
	The EBT System shall decrypt the Password and validate that it is correct for the given System ID.
	The EBT System shall generate and return Security Token.
	The generated Security Token shall be valid for a configurable number of minutes (20 minutes is suggested timeout value).

Once the MIS has logged on to the EBT System, the MIS must periodically log on to the EBT System to retrieve a new token before the existing token expires. Note that the existing token remains valid for the entire number of minutes specified so that any "in flight" operations will succeed if a new token is requested in parallel with such operations. It is recommended that the MIS perform a System Logon on a recurring basis at an interval that is slightly less than the timeout out value for the security token.

5.1.3 USER MAINTENANCE FOR SSO

User maintenance for SSO comprises operations for maintaining SSO users in the EBT System. Users from a MIS that are setup in the EBT System shall be able to access screens in the EBT System via direct links from the MIS without having to go through an additional log on process in the EBT System. Note that users may be setup independently in the EBT System. However, such users will not have SSO functionality available.

The following table lists specific operations involved with this functional area:

Operation
Create User
Update User
Deactivate User
Access the EBT System

5.1.3.1 CREATE USER

The Create User operation is used to create a SSO user in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Username		M
Name of User		M
User Address		O
User Email Address		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall validate that Username does not already exist for the calling system.

5.1.4 UPDATE USER

The Update User operation is used to update SSO user information in the EBT System. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
Username		M
Name of User		M
User Address		O
User Email Address		O

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall validate that Username does already exists for the calling system.

Note that entire record of user information is updated with the information provided in the request. For example, if the MIS desires to update the Name of User but not the User Email Address, then the original User Email Address must be provided. If the original User Email Address is submitted as NULL, then the User Email Address is saved as NULL.

5.1.5 DEACTIVATE USER

The Update User operation is used to deactivate a SSO user in the EBT System. The EBT System will not accept subsequent the EBT System Access requests after a SSO user has been deactivated. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	
Username		M

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall validate that Username does already exists for the calling system.
	The status of the user is changed to inactive. Note that the user record still exists in the EBT System.

5.1.6 ACCESS THE EBT SYSTEM

The Access the EBT System operation is used to provide access to the EBT System screens from the MIS for a SSO user that is logged on to the MIS. The following table lists the data elements in the request:

Data element name	Notes	CC
System ID		M
WIC State Agency ID		M
Security Token		M
Username		M
SSO Action	Currently, the only accepted value is logoff. If the parameter is null, then the EBT System will log on the user or will extend the user's session if it already exists.	O

Note that all parameters except System ID are encrypted. The details of encryption method are beyond the scope of this document.

The following describes the processing rules associated with this operation:

Rule ID	Description
	The EBT System shall validate that the Security Token is currently valid for the given System ID and WIC State Agency ID.
	The EBT System shall validate the Username and status for the given System ID.
	If no session exists for the user and Action is not present, then a new session is created in the EBT System for the given user. Furthermore, the session will expire after an agency configured timeout (e.g. 20 minutes).
	If a session already exists for the user and Action is not present, then the expiration time for the session is extended for another 20 minutes.
	When the session is created, the EBT System security settings for user (based on the user's group memberships) are loaded.
	If Action is logoff, then the user's session is invalidated so that no further access to the EBT System is allowed (until the MIS initiates another logon for the user).

APPENDIX A - COMPOSITE DATA ELEMENTS

The following data elements are composed of multiple sub-elements.

A.1 ADDRESS

This object represents a mailing address.

Data element name	Notes	CC
Address 1		M
Address 2		O
City		M
State		M
Zip		M

A.2 NAME

This object represents a person's name.

Data element name	Notes	CC
First Name		M
Middle Name		O
Last Name		M

APPENDIX B - DATA DICTIONARY

Data element name	Description
ACH Settlement Time	For a direct connect, this is the time that the EBT System uses for processing retail activity for the purpose of computing the daily retail settlement amount. It can also be called the daily cut-off time. The EBT System will process transactions that occurred during the 24 hours prior to this time.
ABA Routing Transit Number	The number that identifies the financial institution to which a retailer is paid
Active Hold Quantity	Quantity of benefit in active hold at grocer for manual voucher authorization
Acquiring Institution ID	The entity acquiring the transaction
Available Benefit Quantity	Quantity of available benefit units in the standard unit of measure for the category and subcategory.
Bank Account Number	The number identifying the retailer's bank account.
Benefit Begin Date	First date on which benefits may be used.
Benefit End Date	Last date on which benefits may be used.
Benefit ID	A unique number identifying a benefit issuance.
Card Acceptor ID Code	A number that identifies the retailer or store location
Card Acceptor Terminal ID	A number that identifies a specific terminal at the retailer or store location
Card Activation Date	Date that card is activated.
Card Deactivation Date	Date that card is deactivated.
Card Number	The number encoded on the magnetic stripe of a card. Also called the PAN.
Card Status	A code indicating the status of the card. The possible values are as follows:
Card Status Date	Date that card status was changed to given value in Card Status.
Cardholder Date of Birth	Date of birth associated with cardholder. It may be the cardholder's DOB, the head of household, or in the case of an alternate, the alternate's DOB or either of the above.

Data element name	Description
Cardholder ID	Unique EBT System generated identification number for cardholder that may be used for other cardholder/card based transactions.
Cardholder Name	Name of the cardholder.
Cardholder Phone Number	Phone number for cardholder.
Cardholder Type	Indicates whether the cardholder is the primary cardholder or a proxy cardholder.
Cardholder Zip Code	Zip code for the cardholder used for identification purposes.
Category Code	A code identifying the type of food product.
Category Begin Date	The date for which the category shall become available for use.
Category End Date	The last date for which the category shall be used.
Category Long Description	A long description of the category suitable for printing or displaying in areas where display width is not a concern.
Category Short Description	A short description of the category suitable for displaying on screen and reports where display width is a concern.
Clinic Address	Address of clinic.
Clinic Contact Name	Primary contact person at clinic.
Clinic Deactivation Date	The date on which a clinic was deactivated in the EBT system.
Clinic ID	MIS assigned identifier for clinic.
Clinic Name	Name of clinic.
Clinic Phone Number	Phone number of clinic.
Clinic Reactivation Date	The date on which a clinic was reactivated in the EBT system.
Contact Alternate Phone	An alternate phone number of a point of the contact at the retail location.
Contact Email	The email number of a point of the contact at the retail location.
Contact Name	The name of a point of contact at the retail location.
Contact Phone	The phone number of a point of the contact at the retail location.

Data element name	Description
Contracting Agency	For State Agencies in which local agencies are responsible for vendor management, this would be the Local Agency or Clinic ID associated with that retailer.
Corporation ID	A unique number assigned to a corporation to which retailers may be associated.
Corporation Name	Unique name associated with corporation
Corporation Address	Corporation street, city, state, zip
Corporation Contact Name	Contact point
Corporation Phone Number	Corporation phone number
Corporation Alternate Phone Number	Other phone number such as a cell phone number
Corporation Email Address	Contact email address
Credit/Debit Indicator	Indicates if the values are to be credited (added) or debited (subtracted) to/from the account.
Date of Birth	Date of birth of the cardholder. This is typically used as a security question for calls to customer service.
Date/Time	Date and time on the MIS when an operation is initiated.
Direct Connect Auto-recon	For a direct connect, this signals whether or not the EBT System generates an auto-reconciliation file for the location.
Direct Connect Flag	Signifies whether or not the retailer connects directly to the EBT System for transactions or comes through the gateway.
Discount Amount	The total amount of any discounts applied to a purchase transaction
Encrypted PIN Block	Triple DES DUKPT encrypted PIN block. (FNS recommended)
Forwarding Institution ID	The entity forwarding the transaction
Host Date/Time	Date/time when a transaction occurred based on date/time of host system
Household Address	This is the address for the household used for any EBT related correspondence.
Household Address	This is the zip code for the household used for identification purposes.

Data element name	Description
Initiating User ID	An identifier assigned to an MIS user that can be used to track activity in the system.
Item Price	The price of an item submitted in a purchase transaction.
Line Item ID	Unique identifier for a line item within the transaction
Local Agency ID	A number that uniquely identifies a local agency within the State Agency.
Local Agency Address	Address of Local Agency.
Local Agency Contact Name	Primary contact person at Local Agency.
Local Agency Deactivation Date	The date on which a Local Agency was deactivated in the EBT system.
Local Agency ID	MIS assigned identifier for Local Agency.
Local Agency Name	Name of Local Agency.
Local Agency Phone Number	Phone number of Local Agency.
Local Agency Reactivation Date	The date on which a local agency was reactivated in the EBT system.
Manual Authorization Quantity	The quantity of benefits involved with a manual auth purchase.
MIS Clinic ID	If the operation is initiated from a clinic, then this is the ID of the initiating clinic.
MIS Household ID	This is the household ID assigned by the MIS.
MIS Retailer Number	A number assigned by the MIS identifying the retailer.
MIS System ID	For direct service calls, this value should be equal to System ID. It is used by the EBT System to log the calling MIS System ID for operations invoked by the EBT System screens on behalf of the MIS.
Name of User	The name of an individual given access rights to a system
New PIN Flag	Indicates if Submit PIN operation is for selecting a new PIN or changing an existing PIN.
Over 50%	Signifies whether or not the volume of WIC sales is over 50% of the total sales for the retailer.
Paid Amount	The amount paid to a retailer for a purchase transaction less any discounts or MAR adjustments.

Data element name	Description
PAN (Primary Account Number)	The EBT card number.
Password	Password used by the system to log on to the EBT System. This parameter is always encrypted.
Peer Group ID	The peer group assigned to the retailer.
Reason Code	Reason for a benefit adjustment.
Repeating Cat / Sub cat Elements	Cat / sub cats elements that are repeated within the transaction
Request Amount	The total amount requested as part of a purchase transaction.
Request Begin Date	Causes any benefits that are valid (current or future) after this date to be retrieved.
Request End Date	Causes any benefits that are valid (current or future) prior to this date to be retrieved.
Require Prescription Flag	Indicates if medical documentation is necessary in order to issue from this subcategory.
Retail Activation Date	The date on which the retailer becomes active. This is the date on which the EBT System will start accepting transactions from the retailer.
Retail Address	Address of the retail location.
Retail Contact Phone	A phone number for the retail location.
Retail Deactivation Date	The date on which the retailer is no longer active. the EBT System will not accept transactions from the retailer after this date.
Retailer ID	A number that uniquely identifies a retailer within a State Agency.
Retailer Name	The name of the retailer.
Retailer Peer Group	The peer group to which a retailer is assigned for cost containment purposes.
Retailer Reactivation Date	The date on which a retailer was reactivated in the EBT system.
Security Token	A token issued by the EBT System when a systems logs on to the EBT System. The issued token is required for all subsequent operations.
Settlement Date	The date for which transactions will be settled, the retailer will be paid the next business day.

Data element name	Description
SSO Action	Indicates type of action for Access the EBT System operation. Currently, the only accepted value is logoff.
Store Date/Time	Date/time when a transaction occurred based on date/time of store system
Subcategory Begin Date	The date for which the subcategory shall become available for use.
Subcategory Code	A code further identifying the type of food product within a category.
Subcategory Description	Description of the food subcategory.
Subcategory End Date	The last date for which the subcategory shall be used.
Subcategory Long Description	A long description of the subcategory suitable for printing or displaying in areas where display width is not a concern.
Subcategory Short Description	A short description of the subcategory suitable for displaying in areas (particularly POS stand-beside receipts) where display width is a concern.
System ID	An ID assigned by the EBT System to the MIS or a subsystem within the MIS. The System ID is used for security and tracking purposes within the EBT System. In particular, if an MIS chooses to implement SSO with the EBT System, then the MIS must maintain a separate System ID for any subsystem that maintains its own set of usernames.
Transaction Code	A value that identifies the type of transaction
Total Food Sales	The volume of total food sales reported by the retailer.
Trace Number	A unique value supplied by the MIS to be associated with the particular invocation of the operation.
Unique Transaction ID	A number that uniquely identifies any type of transaction (clinic or retail) within the EBT system
Unit of Measure Abbreviation	An abbreviated description of the unit of measure associated with the food subcategory.
Unit of Measure Description	Description of the unit of measure associated with the food subcategory.
User Address	Contact address of the user.
User Email Address	Email address of the user.
User Interface	The system through which a user accesses a function or data.

Data element name	Description
Username	String used to identify user in the EBT System. Used in conjunction with User System ID to uniquely identify a user.
WIC State Agency ID	ID of WIC State Agency for which the operation is being initiated. It is suggested that that the WIC Authority ID codes listed in A.5 of the X9.93 Technical Implementation Guide be used for this data element.
Workstation ID	ID of the workstation initiating the operation.

APPENDIX C - ABBREVIATED TERMS

Abbreviation	Definition
ABA	American Banker Association
ACH	Automated Clearing House
APL	Authorized Products List
DOB	Date of Birth
EBA	Electronic Benefit Account
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
HCL	Hot Card List
HOH	Head of Household
ID	Identification
LA	Local Agency
MAR	Maximum Allowable Reimbursement
MIS	Management Information System
NTE	Not To Exceed
NUPC	National UPC [Database]
PAN	Primary Account Number
PIN	Personal Identification Number
PLU	Price Look Up [Code]
SSO	Single Sign On
UI	User Interface
UPC	Universal Product Code
WIC	Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
X9.93	Standard for WIC EBT messages and files for retail transactions and other related functions
XML	Extensible Markup Language